

1 Amendments to the claims

2 The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of  
3 claims in the application:

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5 1. (Currently Amended) A method of regionalizing a manufactured device  
6 and consumable items utilized by the device, the device having an associated  
7 memory and the consumable items each having an information retaining  
8 mechanism, the method comprising the steps of:

9 [[a)] for each consumable item distributed within a region, pre-configuring the  
10 information retaining mechanism therein with region identification information that in  
11 a manner which uniquely identifies the region;

12 [[b)] installing in the device a consumable item having an information  
13 retaining mechanism pre-configured for the region;

14 [[c)] transferring the region identification information from the consumable  
15 item information retaining mechanism to the memory associated with the device and  
16 storing the region identification information therein; [[and]]

17 [[d)] if the device is in a non-regionalized condition, permanently configuring  
18 the device in a regionalized condition based on the ~~transferred~~ region identification  
19 information stored in the memory; and

20 once the device is in the regionalized condition, prohibiting the device from  
21 consuming a material supplied by a subsequently installed consumable item that is  
22 not pre-configured for use in the region.

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24 2. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
25 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 1, wherein the memory associated  
with the device is an electronic memory within the device.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured  
2 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 2, wherein the  
3 information retaining mechanism of each of the consumable items is an electronic  
4 memory, ~~the step of configuring the information retaining mechanism in a manner~~  
5 ~~which uniquely identifies the region comprises writing the region identification~~  
6 ~~information to the electronic memory, and the step of~~ and transferring the region  
7 ~~identification information from the consumable item to the electronic memory within~~  
8 ~~the device~~ comprises electronically reading the information from the electronic  
9 memory of the consumable item and electronically writing the region identification  
10 information to the electronic memory within the device.

11 4. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured  
12 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 3, wherein the device  
13 further has an associated wireless communications link in data communication with  
14 the associated memory and the consumable items each further comprise a wireless  
15 communications link in data communication with the electronic memory, and  
16 electronically reading the region identification information from the electronic memory  
17 of the consumable is accomplished over the wireless links.

18 5-6. (Canceled).

19 7. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
20 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 1, wherein the device further  
21 comprises a printer and the consumable items further comprise printer consumables.

22 8. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
23 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 7, wherein the printer is an ink jet  
24 printer and the printer consumables are ink jet cartridges.

25 9-11. (Canceled)

1 12. (Currently Amended) A method of regionalizing a manufactured device  
2 and consumable items utilized by the device, the device having an associated  
3 memory and the consumable items each having an information retaining  
4 mechanism, the method comprising the steps of:

5 a) for each consumable item distributed within a region, pre-configuring the  
6 information retaining mechanism with region identification information that in a  
7 ~~manner which~~ uniquely identifies the region;

8 b) installing in the device a consumable item having an information retaining  
9 mechanism pre-configured for the region;

10 c) transferring the region identification information from the consumable item  
11 information retaining mechanism to the memory associated with the device and  
12 storing the region identification information therein

13 d) if the device is in a non-regionalized condition, then permanently  
14 configuring the device in a regionalized condition based on the transferred region  
15 identification information stored in the memory; and

16 for each subsequently installed consumable item ~~installed in the device,~~

17 e) testing the information retaining mechanism of the subsequently installed  
18 consumable item to determine the pre-configured region identification information  
19 contained therein;

20 f) comparing the pre-configured region identification information of the  
21 subsequently installed consumable with the region identification stored in memory,  
22 and

23 g) if the region identifications do not match, declining the subsequently  
24 installed consumable.

25 13. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 12, wherein the memory  
associated with the device is an electronic memory within the device.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured  
2 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 13, wherein the  
3 information retaining mechanism of each of the consumable items is an electronic  
4 memory, ~~the step of configuring the information retaining mechanism in a manner~~  
5 ~~which uniquely identifies the region comprises writing the region identification~~  
6 ~~information to the electronic memory,~~ and the step of transferring region identification  
7 information from the consumable item to the electronic memory within the device  
8 comprises electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the  
9 consumable item and electronically writing the information to the electronic memory  
10 within the device.

11 15. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
12 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 14, wherein the device further has  
13 an associated wireless communications link in data communication with the  
14 associated memory and the consumable items each further comprise a wireless  
15 communications link in data communication with the electronic memory; and  
16 electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the consumable  
17 is accomplished over the wireless links.

18 16. (Currently Amended) The method of regionalizing a manufactured  
19 device and consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 12, wherein the  
20 information retaining mechanism of each of the consumable items is an electronic  
21 memory, ~~the step of configuring the information retaining mechanism in a manner~~  
22 ~~which uniquely identifies the region comprises writing the region identification~~  
23 ~~information to the electronic memory,~~ and the step of transferring region identification  
24 information from the consumable item to the electronic memory within the device  
25 includes electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the  
consumable item.

1 17. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
2 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 16, wherein the device further has  
3 an associated wireless communications link in data communication with the  
4 associated memory and the consumable items each further comprise a wireless  
5 communications link in data communication with the electronic memory, and  
6 electronically reading the information from the electronic memory of the consumable  
is accomplished over the wireless links.

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8 18. (Original) The method of regionalizing a manufactured device and  
9 consumable items utilized by the device of Claim 12, wherein the device has an  
10 associated user interface allowing messages to be displayed to a user and also  
11 allowing responses to be input by the user, and the step of declining the consumable  
12 comprises notifying the device user of an incompatibility and requiring a specific  
response to be input by the user.

13 19-51. (Canceled)  
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